

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0849

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: JEWISH CLAIMS AGAINST GDR: TRAVEL OF BENJAMIN FERENCZ

REF: BERLIN 5731

1. THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED TO CLARIFY A STATEMENT CONTAINED IN PARA 2 OF REFTTEL (A REPORT OF A CONVERSATION WITH FERENCZ) WHICH INDICATES THAT DURING MY TALK WITH FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER OF THE SED ON FEBRUARY 27, 1975 HE SPOKE POSITIVELY ABOUT A PROPOSED MEETING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND DR. GOLDMANN OF THE CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS. I WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN FERENCZ, DCM, AND POLITICAL OFFICER AND DID NOT SEE FERENCZ DURING HIS VISIT TO THE EMBASSY.

2. I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATEMENTS OF FERENCZ ALLUDING TO MY TALK WITH HONECKER ON FEBRUARY 27. I REPORTED AFTERWARDS THAT "HONECKER THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT COMMUNICATION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED ON THE SUBJECT OF
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COMPENSATION FOR NAZI DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWISH

PEOPLE AND SAID THERE WOULD BE FURTHER COMMUNICATION".
HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO MEETING WITH GOLDMANN OR ANY
OTHER PERSON.

3. SHORTLY AFTER MY ARRIVAL IN BERLIN, BUT WEEKS BEFORE
MY TALK WITH HONECKER, I MET AND TALKED WITH FERENCZ. I HAVE
NOT SEEN HIM OR COMMUNICATED WITH HIM SINCE THAT TIME.
I HAVE NEVER MADE TO FERENCZ, GOLDMANN OR ANY PERSON
ANY STATEMENT SUCH AS FERENCZ ATTRIBUTES TO HONECKER. IN
MY MEETING WITH GOLDMANN DURING MY RECENT CONSULTATIONS
IN WASHINGTON, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY EUR/CE ANDERSON,
I ALSO MADE NO SUCH STATEMENT.

4. MY CONCERN IS BASED ON TWO POINTS. FIRST, THAT SUCH
INCORRECT STATEMENTS ARE BEING COMMUNICATED TO THE
CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AND PERHAPS TO OTHER
INTERESTED PERSONS. SECOND, I CALL ATTENTION TO FERENCZ'S
STATEMENT THAT HE HAD REPORTED TO EINECKE
OF THE GDR ANTI-FASCIST RESISTANCE COMMITTEE THAT
HONECKER TOLD ME "THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO RECEIVE
GOLDMANN FOR A PRIVATE TALK." I WOULD THINK THAT THIS
INACCURATE STATEMENT WOULD BE REPORTED TO HONECKER, AND THAT
HE WOULD CONSIDER, AS I WOULD, THAT I HAD MADE AN
INCORRECT REPORT ON THIS ASPECT OF OUR TALKS, AND PERHAPS
ON OTHER ASPECTS THEREBY AFFECTING THE CREDIBILITY OF
THE EMBASSY, OR AT LEAST MY CREDIBILITY.

5. SUCH INCORRECT STATEMENTS WILL HINDER
PROGRESS ON JEWISH CLAIMS. I SUGGEST THAT FERENCZ BE
CORRECTED WHEN HE REPORTS BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT.

THE EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE EINECKE AN
ACCURATE VERSION OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY HONECKER. COOPER

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